

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6030

UNCLAS VIENNA 03669

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, AU

SUBJECT: U.S. TASK FORCE FOOTWEAR INDUSTRY

REF: A) STATE 089279, B) VIENNA A-011 AND PREVIOUS

1. IN COMPLIANCE WITH REFTEL A) EMBASSY CALLED ON APPROPRIATE PURCHASING AUTHORITIES AND LEARNED THAT BIDS FROM THE U.S. INDUSTRY MAY BE SUBMITTED, HOWEVER, CHANCES OF GETTING A CONTRACT ARE VERY SLIM.

2. THE HEERES-BESCHAFFUNGSAMT OF STRAUSSENGASSE 11, A-1050 VIENNA, AUSTRIA, WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PURCHASE OF MILITARY FOOTWEAR, INFORMED THE EMBASSY THAT VERY SPECIFIC STANDARDS AND MANUFACTURING INSTRUCTIONS HAVE TO BE COMPLIED WITH TO OBTAIN A CONTRACT. MOREOVER, THE AUSTRIAN ARMY SUPPLIES CERTAIN PARTS AND MATERIALS FOR THE SHOES TO BE MANUFACTURED. THE MANUFACTURER IN TURN IS OBLIGATED TO HAVE THE MATERIALS USED TESTED AT SPECIFIC INSTITUTES IN AUSTRIA. THE 1978 DEMAND IS ABOUT 22,000 PAIRS, THIS AMOUNT, HOWEVER, IS NOT REPRESENTATIVE. IT IS LARGER THAN USUAL DUE TO A REORGANIZATION IN THE AUSTRIAN ARMY. SEE PARA 5.

3. THE MASSAFONDS DER BUNDESPOLIZEI AND THE MASSAFONDS DER BUNDESGENDARMERIE BOTH AT RUCKERGASSE 62, A-1120 VIENNA, AUSTRIA, ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR SHOE PURCHASES FOR THE AUSTRIAN POLICE. AGAIN VERY SPECIFIC STANDARDS AND UNCLASSIFIED

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PRODUCTION REQUIREMENTS HAVE TO BE FULFILLED. PURCHASES ARE MADE IN QUANTITIES OF 1,000 TO 2,000 PAIRS A TIME. SEE PARA 5.

4. THE AUSTRIAN POSTAL SERVICE DOES NOT PROVIDE FOOTWEAR TO ITS EMPLOYEES. DEMAND OF FIRE DEPARTMENTS IS MINIMAL, SINCE MOST FIRE DEPARTMENTS IN AUSTRIA ARE SMALL AND

ORGANIZED ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS.

5. DETAILED INFORMATION ON ALL PUBLIC TENDERS SOR ROOTWEAR AND ALSO OTHER PRODUCTS IS PUBLISHED IN THE WEEKLY "AMTLICHER LIEFERUNGSANZEIGER" (OFFICIAL DELIVERY GAZETTE) PUBLISHED BY THE COMPASS-VERLAG OF WIPPLINGERSTRASSE 32, A-1013 VIENNA, AUSTRIA. PRICE OF AN ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION IS APPROXIMATELY 30 US\$. IN PROCUREMENT OF BIDS THERE ARE NO REGULATIONS GIVING CLEARLY DEFINED PREFERENCE TO AUSTRIAN FIRMS, HOWEVER, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ARE SUPPOSED TO COMPLY WITH THE AUSTRIAN STANDARDS AGENCY'S RECOMMENDATION A-2050, "PLACING OF ORDERS". THIS RECOMMENDATION STATES THAT "IF CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT, ONLY PRODUCTS OF AUSTRIAN ORIGIN SHALL BE USED AND ONLY AUSTRIAN FIRMS SHALL BE ENGAGED". THE EXPRESSION "IF CIRCUMSTANCES PERMIT" MEANS THAT COMMERCIAL CONSIDERATIONS ARE THE DECIDING FACTOR AND THAT THE SAME CRITERIA ARE APPLIED TO DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN SUPPLIERS. IN PRACTICE THERE IS A STRONG PREFERENCE TO BUY FROM AUSTRIAN FIRMS.

6. IN THE CASE OF UNIFORMED SERVICES WHERE FOOTWEAR IS PURCHASED BY THE INDIVIDUAL RATHER THAN BY CENTRAL AUTHORITIES DISTRIBUTION FOLLOWS THE PATTERN DISCUSSED UNDER THE HEADING "BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT" OF VIENNA'S A-011.

7. POST DOES NOT CONSIDER ANY CHANGES IN THE CURRENT UNCLASSIFIED

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CCP. BORG

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